

LAYLAT AL QADR

Laylat Al-Qadr (also known as Shab-e-Qadr), variously rendered in English as the Night of Destiny, Night of Power, Night of Value, the Night of Decree or Night of Measures.

Narrated by Ayesha (رضي الله عنها) that,

“WHEN THE LAST TEN DAYS OF RAMADAN CAME, THE PROPHET (صلى الله عليه و سلم) WOULD STAY UP AT NIGHT AND WOULD WAKE HIS FAMILY UP, AND WOULD ABSTAIN FROM MARITAL RELATIONS. (Bukharee & Muslim)

The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه و سلم) used to strive hard in worship during the last ten days of Ramadan as he never did at any other time, praying, reading Qur'an and making Du'a.

Narrated by Ayesha (رضي الله عنها) that,

THE PROPHET (صلى الله عليه و سلم) USED TO STRIVE HARD IN WORSHIP DURING THE LAST TEN DAYS OF RAMADAN AS HE NEVER DID AT ANY OTHER TIME. (Ahmad & Muslim)

Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) has blessed Ramadan with Laylat Al-Qadr. The great status of this blessed night has been mentioned in Surah Al-Qadr.

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

“INDEED, WE SENT THE QUR’AN DOWN DURING THE NIGHT OF AL-QADR (DECREE). AND WHAT WILL MAKE YOU KNOW WHAT THE NIGHT OF AL-QADR IS? THE NIGHT OF AL-QADR IS BETTER THAN A THOUSAND MONTHS (I.E. WORSHIPPING ALLÂH IN THAT NIGHT IS BETTER THAN WORSHIPPING HIM A THOUSAND MONTHS, I.E. 83 YEARS AND 4 MONTHS). THE ANGELS AND THE SPIRIT DESCEND THEREIN BY PERMISSION OF THEIR LORD FOR EVERY MATTER, PEACE! UNTIL THE APPEARANCE OF DAWN.

(Surah Al Qadr 97:1-5)

HADEETH SPEAK OF LAYLAT AL-QADR

Narrated by Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

“THERE HAS COME TO YOU RAMADAN, A BLESSED MONTH WHICH ALLAH HAS ENJOINED YOU TO FAST, DURING WHICH THE GATES OF HEAVEN ARE OPENED AND THE GATES OF HELL ARE CLOSED, AND THE REBELLIOUS DEVILS ARE CHAINED UP. IN IT THERE IS A NIGHT WHICH IS BETTER THAN A THOUSAND MONTHS, AND WHOEVER IS DEPRIVED OF ITS GOODNESS IS INDEED DEPRIVED.”

(An Nasa’i 2106 & Musnad Imam Ahmad 8769)

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) enjoined staying up and praying on Laylat Al-Qadr out of faith and in the hope of reward.

Narrated by Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

“WHOEVER SPENDS LAYLAT AL-QADR IN PRAYER OUT OF FAITH AND IN THE HOPE OF REWARD, WILL BE FORGIVEN HIS PREVIOUS SINS.”

(Bukharee 1910 & Muslim 760)

OUT OF FAITH: Means believing in its virtue and in the reward for that.

IN THE HOPE OF REWARD: Means by seeking the pleasure of Allah.

This hadeeth indicates that it is prescribed to observe Laylat Al-Qadr by spending the night in prayer.

BEST DU'A FOR LAYLAT-AL-QADR

One of the best Du'a that may be recited on Laylat Al-Qadr is that which the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) taught to Ayesha (رضي الله عنها).

Narrated by Ayesha (رضي الله عنها) that,

“I said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, if I know which night is Laylat Al-Qadr, what should I say on that night?’

He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, ‘Say:

“ALLAHUMMA INNAKA ‘AFUWWUN TUHIBBAL ‘AFWA FA’AFFU ‘ANNI”
(O Allah, You are forgiving and You love forgiveness, so forgive me).”

(Tirmidhi, classed as Saheeh)

WHEN IS LAYLAT AL-QADR

With regard to specifying which night of Ramadan is Laylat Al-Qadr, this needs specific evidence, but the odd-numbered nights during the last ten nights are more likely than others.

The scholars differed as to the definition of Laylat Al-Qadr, and there are many opinions, more than forty as it says in Fath al-Bari.

The most likely to be correct is the view that it is one of the odd-numbered nights among the last ten nights of Ramadan.

Narrated by Ayesha (رضي الله عنها) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

“SEEK LAYLAT AL-QADR AMONG THE ODD NUMBERED NIGHTS OF THE LAST TEN NIGHTS OF RAMADAN.”

(Bukharee 2017 & Muslim 1169)

Al-Bukharee included this hadeeth in a chapter entitled:

“SEEKING LAYLAT AL-QADR AMONG THE ODD NUMBERED NIGHTS OF THE LAST TEN NIGHTS (OF RAMADAN)”

The reason why it is hidden is to encourage the Muslim to strive hard in worship and Du'a and Dhikr during all the last ten nights of Ramadan.

Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalani (رحيم الله) said:

The words of Imam Al Bukharee (رحيم الله) as follows:

“Seeking Laylat al-Qadr among the odd numbered nights of the last ten nights (of Ramadan)” – indicate that it is most likely that Laylat Al-Qadr cannot be in any month other than Ramadan, and is in the last ten nights thereof, and is one of the odd-numbered nights, but not on any particular night. This is what is indicated by a number of the reports that have been narrated concerning it.

(Fath Al Bari, Vol 4, Page 260)

Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalani (رحيم الله) said:

The scholars said: The reason why Laylat Al-Qadr has been concealed is so that people will strive to seek it, because if its timing was known, they would limit their efforts to that night only, as we have explained previously about the time on Friday (when Du'a are answered).

(Fath Al Bari, Vol 4, Page 266)

Based on this, it is not possible for anyone to be certain that a particular night is Laylat Al-Qadr, especially since we know that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) wanted to tell his Ummah when it was, then he told them that Allah had taken away that knowledge.

Narrated by Ubaydah Ibn As-Samit (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه و سلم) came out with the news of Laylat Al-Qadr, but two men among the Muslims started arguing.

He (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"I CAME OUT TO TELL YOU ABOUT LAYLAT AL-QADR, BUT SO AND SO AND SO AND SO STARTED ARGUING, SO (THAT KNOWLEDGE) WAS TAKEN AWAY. PERHAPS THAT WILL BE BETTER FOR YOU. SO, SEEK IT ON THE TWENTY SEVENTH AND THE TWENTY NINTH AND THE TWENTY FIFTH."

(Saheeh Bukharee 49)

The Muslim should strive his hardest to do acts of obedience and worship throughout Ramadan, and more so in the last ten days. This is the teaching of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم).

Narrated by Ayesha (رضي الله عنها) that,

"WHEN THE LAST TEN DAYS OF RAMADAN BEGAN, THE PROPHET (SALLA-ALLAHU 'ALAYHI WA SALLAM) WOULD TIGHTEN HIS WAIST-WRAPPER, SPEND HIS NIGHTS IN PRAYER, AND WAKE HIS FAMILY."

(Bukharee 1920 & Muslim 1174)

The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه و سلم) used to strive hard in worship during the last ten nights of Ramadan as he did not do at other times, praying and reading Qur'an.